

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY
WATTS BAR FOSSIL PLANT BARGE UNLOADING CRANE AND CONVEYOR BELT
SYSTEM REMOVAL, CHICKAMAUGA RESERVOIR, RHEA COUNTY, TENNESSEE

The crane and the conveyor belt system associated with the coal barge unloading facilities of the former Watts Bar Fossil Plant (WBF) are no longer needed, and TVA proposes to remove the deteriorated crane and coal conveyor belt system. Because of its historical significance, WBF is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and the crane and conveyor are components of this historic property. The removal of the crane and conveyor has the potential to adversely affect the historic property. The potential effects of the proposed action have been evaluated in an Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared by TVA; this EA is incorporated by reference.

The EA evaluates two alternatives, the No Action Alternative and the Action Alternative, under which TVA would remove the crane and conveyor belt system. The crane would either be transferred to another party for refurbishment and reuse or disassembled and sold for scrap metal. The conveyor belt system would be disassembled; suitable parts would be recycled as scrap metal and the remainder sent to a permitted solid waste landfill.

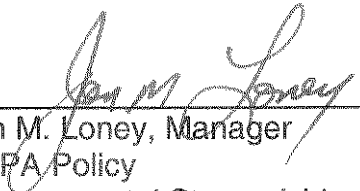
TVA's review indicated that impacts to traffic, socioeconomics, and air quality from the proposal would be insignificant. There would be no impacts to aquatic life, wetlands, or any threatened or endangered species or their habitats. There would be no impact to flood control, and the proposal complies with Executive Order 11988. TVA would mitigate the adverse effect to the WBF historic property resulting from the removal of the crane and conveyor belt system by carrying out the treatment plan described below as a mitigation measure. With implementation of the treatment plan, the impacts to the WBF historic property would be insignificant, and TVA would comply with Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act*.

Mitigation

The crane and the conveyor belt system would be documented as described in the Memorandum of Agreement between TVA and the Tennessee SHPO. TVA would ensure, to the fullest extent practicable, that all other contributing elements of WBF that make it eligible for listing on the NRHP are avoided by any activities associated with the Action Alternative.

Conclusion and Findings

TVA has assessed the potential impacts associated with the removal of the barge unloading crane and conveyor belt system. We conclude the removal would not be a major federal action significantly affecting the environment. Accordingly, preparation of an environmental impact statement is not required. This FONSI is contingent upon adherence to the mitigation measure described above.



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Date Signed